

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY PM/NPP:ALOCKE
APPROVED BY S/AS - AMB. SMITH
T/D - DR. NYE
S/S:RCASTRODALE
EUR/WE - MR. DOBBINS
AF/S - MR. MACFARLANE

-----089093 130108Z /62

O P 122350Z MAY 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY 0234

S E C R E T STATE 122358

NODIS
CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, PARM, SF, FR

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROBLEM
REFS: PARIS 15024, 15260

1. WE APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE OUR THINKING WITH JACOMET IN ADVANCE TO HIS TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA. WE WILL, OBVIOUSLY, WANT TO FACTOR RESULTS OF HIS TRIP INTO OUR PREPARATION FOR AMBASSADOR SMITH'S TALKS.
2. AS PRESENTLY ENVISAGED, WE ANTICIPATE THAT SMITH'S TALKS WITH THE SAG WILL CENTER ON THREE ISSUES RELATED TO OUR INTENTION TO SEEK A RESOLUTION OF THE NUCLEAR PROBLEM ON

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NUCLEAR TERMS:

A. WHAT IS THE SCOPE AND NATURE OF NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY ASSURANCES THAT THE SAG WILL LOOK FOR IN EXCHANGE FOR NPT ADHERENCE AND ACCEPTANCE OF INTERIM SAFEGUARDS AT THE VALINDABA ENRICHMENT PLANT;

B. WILL THESE NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY ASSURANCES BE SUFFICIENT, OR WILL THE SAG ALSO BE TRYING TO GET CONCESSIONS EITHER IN OTHER NUCLEAR AREAS (SUCH AS TECHNOLOGY FOR THE ENRICHMENT PROJECT) OR IN NON-NUCLEAR AREAS;

C. WILL THE SAG BE PREPARED TO OFFER ADDITIONAL ASSURANCES AND EVIDENCE THAT THE KALAHARI SITE DOES NOT HAVE A NUCLEAR TESTING PURPOSE.

3. US NUCLEAR LEVERAGE IS LIMITED PRIMARILY TO SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR THE SAFARI RESEARCH REACTOR AND THE KOEBERG POWER REACTORS (SOUTH AFRICA HAS IN THE PAST SOUGHT TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ENRICHMENT PROJECT, BUT IT IS QUITE UNCERTAIN WHETHER THE CONSTRAINTS OF OUR NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY WOULD PERMIT US TO MEET SOUTH AFRICAN NEEDS IN THIS AREA IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAY). FROM OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT SOUTH AFRICAN PLANS TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF THE VALINDABA ENRICHMENT PLANT TO MEET SOUTH AFRICA'S OWN FUEL NEEDS IN THE 1980S, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT OUR FUEL SUPPLY LEVERAGE MAY BECOME A DIMINISHING ASSET, AND THAT SOUTH AFRICA MAY THUS BE ENCOURAGED TO SEEK BROADER POLITICAL CONCESSIONS IN RETURN FOR MEETING OUR NONPROLIFERATION CONDITIONS.

4. WE THUS ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT SOUTH AFRICAN
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UNCERTAINTY REGARDING FRANCE'S SUPPLYING THE KOEBERG POWER REACTORS, IF SOUTH AFRICA FAILS TO ADHERE TO THE NPT OR ACCEPT SAFEGUARDS, COULD USEFULLY ENHANCE THE NUCLEAR LEVERAGE AVAILABLE TO BRING ABOUT RESOLUTION OF THE NUCLEAR PROBLEM. WE UNDERSTAND FROM PREVIOUS EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WITH THE FRENCH ON THIS ISSUE THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY TOLD THE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT FRANCE WOULD ABIDE BY A UNSC EMBARGO ON NUCLEAR SUPPLY TO SOUTH AFRICA, MEANING THAT THE KOEBERG REACTORS WOULD NOT BE SUPPLIED UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. IT IS OF COURSE A MATTER FOR THE FRENCH TO DECIDE AS TO HOW FAR THEY ARE PREPARED TO GO IN FORESHADOWING TO SOUTH AFRICA THE LOSS OF THE KOEBERG REACTORS, BUT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR JACOMET TO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF OUR ANALYSIS THAT THIS COULD BE A VALUABLE ADDITIONAL FACTOR IN BRINGING THE SOUTH AFRICANS TOWARD AN ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION.

6. YOU SHOULD ALSO INFORM JACOMET THAT SMITH'S TRIP WILL NOW PROBABLY BE DELAYED TO THE END OF JUNE OR THE MIDDLE OF JULY BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING PROBLEMS. SOUTH AFRICANS

HAVE SUGGESTED DATES FOR THE MIDDLE OF JUNE WHICH CONFLICT WITH SMITH'S TRAVEL OBLIGATIONS ELSEWHERE. SMITH APPRECIATES INVITATION TO MEET WITH JACOMET ON HIS WAY TO SOUTH AFRICA. SMITH MAY ALSO BE ABLE TO STOP IN PARIS ON HIS WAY TO OR (PREFERABLY) FROM THE JUNE 6-8 IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETING IN VIENNA. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER THIS

WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO JACOMET. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NPT, CAT-B, VISITS, MEETINGS, NUCLEAR TEST SITES, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE122358
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ALOCKE
Enclosure: CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: STATE SS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780562/aaaacarp.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: c324969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 PARIS 15024, 78 PARIS 15260
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2701702
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROBLEM
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, SF, FR, US, (JACOMET, ANDRE)
To: PARIS CAPE TOWN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c324969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014